

# Nation



Volume 19, No. 10 • March 23, 2012

## PDAC Conference

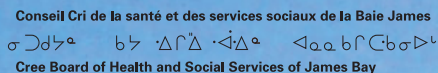
Possibilities and Opportunities Underground

## Chisasibi's New Chief

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## Spring is in the air

By Will Nicholls

Recently the Nation traveled to Toronto to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's annual convention. It was huge and it was great to see so many Aboriginal people there either as communities, businesses or just plain interested individuals looking to network. There were exhibitors and delegates galore, but most surprising was the confidence they displayed.

On the journey back to Montreal though my heart pounded and the adrenaline rush was even greater as I looked to the sky. Geese were already returning from their vacation in the South. These weren't the small flocks associated with the early birds returning but numbered in the hundreds. It was a wonderful sight to see these beautiful and tasty geese against a blue sky.

I opened the window to hear them calling to each other. Not having a goose call I used my voice. Those of you who have hunted with me have compared me to a sick goose, but I prefer to think of it being wounded. Perhaps shot in the neck some would say, but I still try anyhow and without shame.

From what I saw and knowing that this winter was so mild I have to predict an early spring goose hunt for the Cree. I'm already going over and getting my gear ready for when they arrive in Mistissini. Yes, I will be there as I haven't gone in the past few years to practice that particular traditional pursuit. I was blessed though with a son in November and I know I will need a few for his Walking Out Ceremony. Like any proud father I want to ensure that the goose used in the ceremony will be one that

gave itself to me and through me to him. These things are important to me as Amy and I are following the Cree tradition of not letting him touch the ground outside of a tent or house until he has his Walking Out Ceremony.

The hunt itself, though, will renew me and my connections to the land, the community, the people and wildlife that have been such an important part of my life and being. It is for me a time of be a part of the renewal of life that spring heralds.

Many memories are made during this time for all Crees. The jokes and laughs are part of the daily life and bring us closer together or teaches us important lessons. Everyone remembers who won the farting contests or the most games of cribbage. Then there was the time a cousin had a toque that was the same Navy Seals used in movies. He was quite proud of that hat and his bragging about it was dealt with. It was put in a cornflakes box and everyone was to test their shooting skills by using it as a target. The tattered remains and a much less cool hat were returned to him. Many a hunter has smiled at new hunters making that most difficult of shots – the infamous hook shot.

This is a time when family and friends come together to celebrate life and each other. It is a time of sharing, not only the geese but of each other and I thank the geese for that.

This year I am looking for a plucker for my portion of the hunt. I am willing to share part of the kill with that person. If you are interested contact Ken or Dorothy Nicholls and many thanks. Here's hoping you all have a good hunt this year.

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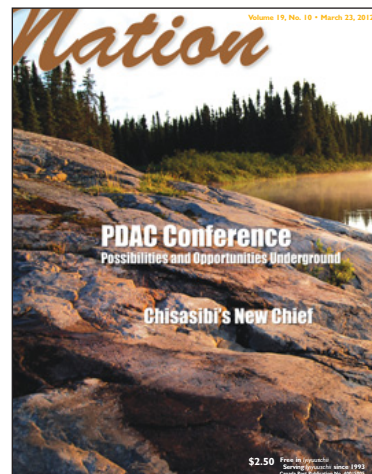


photo by:  
Lyle Stewart



# Planet North

By Sonny Orr



As you look back into our history, let's say, several hundred years, you'll see a change of interest of the North in general. The North was always important to the world in those years, when crossing the Atlantic Ocean meant reaching India from the other side. The world was a lot smaller back then and when lost explorers finally figured out that an entire continent lay in the way of the route to the rich Orient, interest in the North plummeted.

Only crazy adventurers claiming the rights to be the first to reach the poles or climb atop mountain peaks dared say the North still offered a Northwest Passage to the Orient. Everyone thought dealing with treacherous icepacks and subzero climates was a thing of the past when the Panama Canal was built. The trains crisscrossed North America easily and eventually over time the North was lost to history as being too expensive and too risky for business.

As the 20th century rolled along, a more sinister interest of our backyard's appeal revealed the intense fear of nuclear annihilation from the red menaces of the Soviet Union and China. A web of radar stations proved useless against low-flying Russian aircrafts, as one was actually shot down after a frantic radio call from a store manager. This according to an Elder, who likes to tell stories like that to me.

So, the fight for the North continued when the introduction of satellites and long-range missiles. They could be launched by some guy with a red phone in his hand and a gun pointed to his head until the order to back down was given by another guy in a suit. Those were days that made everyone nervous.

When large deposits of resources were found, big bucks concentrated focus not into our communities, but rather, into the large pockets of resource-hungry nations that won't take no for an answer. Once again the North is under the magnifying glass and, of all things, what is bad for the planet is good for us. Take global warming, for example.

The Northwest Passage would be free of ice and the route would pass through our neighbour's islands in Nunavut, then southwest on to the spicy nations, thus making Panama obsolete. The South will swelter in the heat while we will tough out the mild winter season. Life as we know it will change. Our resources will make their way to the industrial Asian markets, one way or another. So cash in while we can, I say. This may be perceived as a ruthless way to get rich, but riches can be made when done the right way. And need we be ruthless – not at all.

When you add care to a product, the price increases – just think of those polished apples. The same holds true for large resource development. When handled with care and loving, that mine doesn't look so bad after all, when you look at it from a different angle and use a caring approach.

Now, it's the 21st century, and people can't stop yapping on about global meltdown and drowning cities. We were warned about this by Al Gore. Remember him? Who cares who warned us, we just want a way to take advantage of it all and make a buck or two. Maybe one day, the true North will cost a lot more than free.

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SÉLECT





# A new leader

## Davey Bobbish elected as Chief of Chisasibi

By Akiva Levitas

On March 8, the people of Chisasibi elected Davey Bobbish as their new Chief. The race between six candidates began when former Chief Abraham Rupert announced that he was stepping down due to health reasons at the start of 2012.

In most cases, the Deputy Chief would step in to finish the remainder of the term and then call an election. However, Chisasibi Deputy Chief Daisy House Lameboy decided not to accept the position and thus prompting an election.

Bobbish won by a substantial margin indicating the confidence the people of Chisasibi have in him as their new leader. In the previous election, Bobbish ran against Abraham Rupert. The other candidates were Charlie Louttit, Councillor Gertie Neacappo, Roy Neacappo, Roderick Pachano and Robbi Tipiatic.

Prior to becoming Chief, Bobbish was the treasurer of the Chisasibi Band Council from 2003 to 2011. He was also the Director General of Operations for Chisasibi from 2004 to 2011, and then became the Deputy Director General for the Cree Regional Authority, a position he held until becoming Chief.

By March 9, there were numerous posts of congratulations on his Facebook campaign page as the news spread of his win. Mike Pelletier, a childhood friend, wrote on the Chisasibi page, "Personally, I've known Davey since childhood to adulthood. He has the passion and capability to lead. I believe you made the right choice and he will serve you well."

In addition to the election of the new Chief, a meeting was held on March 1 to determine if the community will also hold a general election for the council. Jimmy Neacappo, the presiding officer chosen for the meeting, said, "The request was turned down because it didn't get the quorum required to pass." For the request to be approved it



Davey Bobbish with his wife Bella Sam and their children, Zachery, Lawrence, Elysia, Phoebe and Katie-Lyn

needed a quorum of one third of all participants at the meeting voting in favour of it.

The first Chisasibi Chief to be elected for a five-year term, former Chief Rupert announced his resignation on January 13 of this year. Shortly after winning the election in 2010, he suffered a heart attack in September yet returned to work a few weeks later in early October.

With 14 years of experience working for the community in various positions, Bobbish won the election with a large backing of the community. On his campaign website ([www.DaveyBobbish.com](http://www.DaveyBobbish.com)), he elaborated his views on the election, stating, "The opportunity is here for you to choose that person that will change the history of our generation, that person is me."

In addition to his work in the public sector, Bobbish also has an extensive history working as a board member in about eight committees. He is currently

serving as a committee member for CREECO as well as being a member of its audit committee since 2008. Plus, Bobbish has served on the CRA Board of Compensation.

As a family man, married for 17 years and with five children, his campaign focused on economic development and better education as well as his vision of a strengthened community based on Cree values. His parenting reveals itself in his vision plan when he calls for stronger community bonds, he states, "Children learn from us, we are the teachers, and we need to show them how to treat people with respect and kindness."

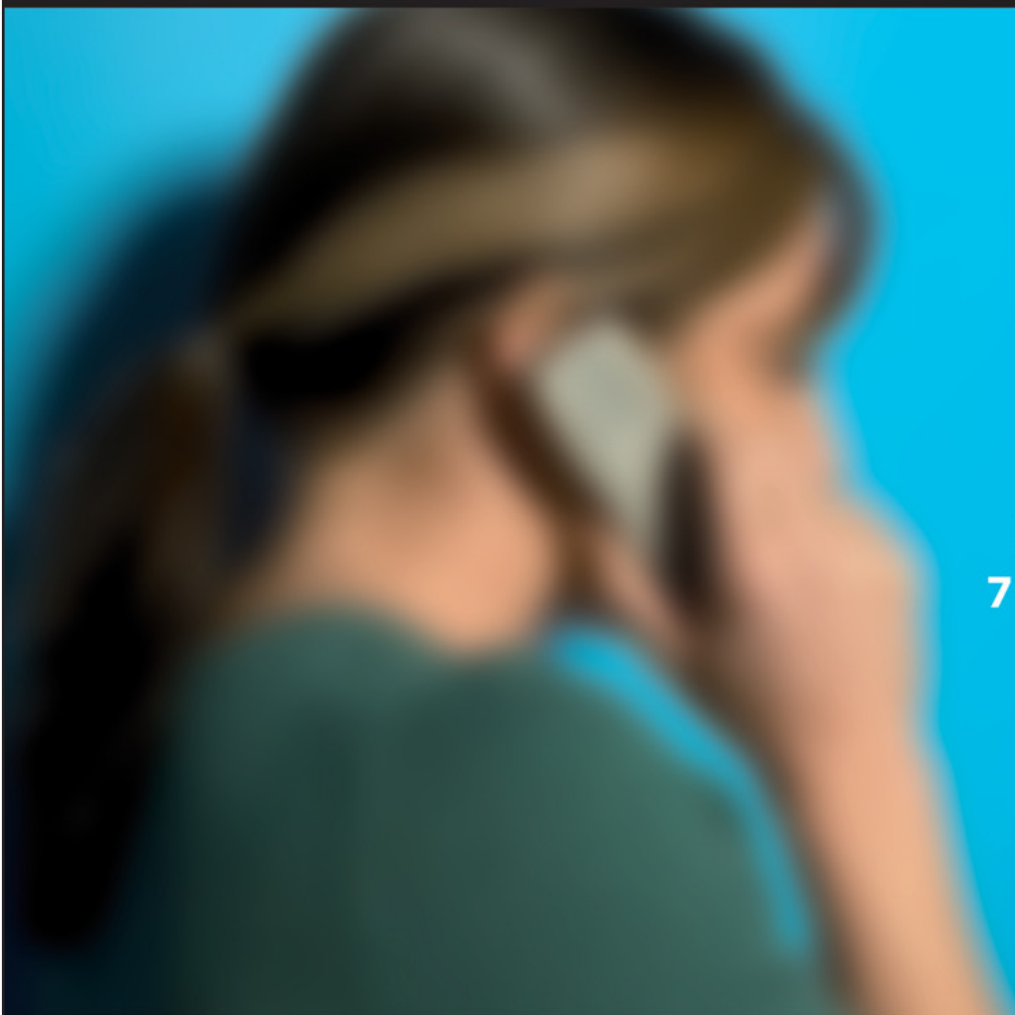
The community of Chisasibi has found a new leader and with the Plan Nord development kicking into high gear it will put the new Chief to the test. Bobbish said he is "the man who can connect us to the future for our community". And now the future of his community rests in his hands.



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## Great Whale murder-suicide shocks locals

On March 13, the funeral of Victor Sam Weetaltuk, 22, the victim of a murder-suicide, was held in the twin Inuit and Cree communities of Kuujjaraapik and Whapmagoostui.

The Nation extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims for their painful losses. A tragedy such as this is hard to understand let alone explain, but with the help of family, friends and community the pain can be overcome.

The incident took place late at night on March 7, when Aakava Horne, 32, shot Weetaltuk from outside his home through the living room window and then turned the gun on himself. The living victims in all of this are their children who have become fatherless overnight.

Although both victims were Inuit, the close-knit nature of the two communities has left everyone in a state of shock. The tragedy was even worse for Weetaltuk's family members who witnessed the shooting.

The Quebec provincial police said the root of this murder-suicide was jealousy. The two bodies have been flown to Montreal for autopsies. According to police, no charges will be laid in these deaths as the situation is "pretty clear".

## DESD creates entrepreneur fund

The Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (DESD), in conjunction with the Cree Regional Authority, has created the Cree Entrepreneurship Assistance Fund (CEAF) to provide business owners with grants.

Managed by the business bureau of the DESD, the grants will be issued to expand and create Cree-operated small and medium businesses within

Eeyou/Eenou territory, to update existing business resources and to promote sustainable development within the region.

Grants are provided to small businesses whose annual revenues do not exceed \$2.5 million and range between \$5000 and \$500,000 per project.

The project is linked with the Strategic Framework of Economic Development in Eeyou Itschee and must comply with the six pillars of economic success outlined by the DESD. These are to ensure the quality of life of the Cree nation, protect environmental assets, honour Cree culture and identity, empower youth as future leaders, promote education and training and ensure sustainability of ventures.

For more info:  
[www.gcc.ca/pdf/CEAF-Brochure.pdf](http://www.gcc.ca/pdf/CEAF-Brochure.pdf)

## RCMP delays missing persons database

After the Harper government's announcement on March 1 that the RCMP's national missing persons database was to be delayed until 2013, the Families of Sisters in Spirit (FSIS), a grassroots, volunteer, non-profit organization based in the Algonquin territory of Ottawa, have taken it upon themselves to establish their own database of missing Aboriginal women.

In 2010, the Conservative government allocated \$10 million in order to address the issue of the 582 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada, \$6 million of those funds being transferred to the RCMP for the national missing persons database to be ready in 2012.

"This [database] is supposed to be for the missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The \$6 million is going for RCMP national missing persons database. So it's not specifically

for Aboriginal women," said Bridget Tolley, co-founder of FSIS.

It will now be ready in 2015 because it will take two years to have the data and online resources ready for public consultation, making it a total of five years since Ottawa has compiled the numbers of missing and murdered Native women.

The FSIS have started their own database in reaction to the government's delays. "The families can't wait that long. When the Aboriginal girls go missing, no one cares, there's no media [attention] and it's hard for us to let anyone know that they are miss-



Bridget Tolley

ing. So Families of Sisters in Spirit hopes to keep helping these families," added Tolley.

Tolley regularly posts missing women's reports on the FSIS's Facebook page. The Ottawa office of the FSIS can be reached at 613-237-1000 or at [familiesofsistersinspirit@gmail.com](mailto:familiesofsistersinspirit@gmail.com)

## Saganash backs Mulcair

Romeo Saganash, MP of Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik-Eeyou, was the first Aboriginal person to run for the lead-



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ership of a major Canadian political party. After dropping out of the NDP leadership race in early February, Saganash's supporters awaited his endorsement of one of the remaining six candidates: Peggy Nash, Brian Topp, Thomas Mulcair, Paul Dewar, Nikki Ashton, Nathan Cullen or Martin Singh.

On March 7, Saganash announced that he would be backing former opponent Mulcair in the NDP leadership race. "Of all my great colleagues who have offered to be our next leader, I believe that Tom is best able to lead all Canadians into

that better future together," said Saganash.

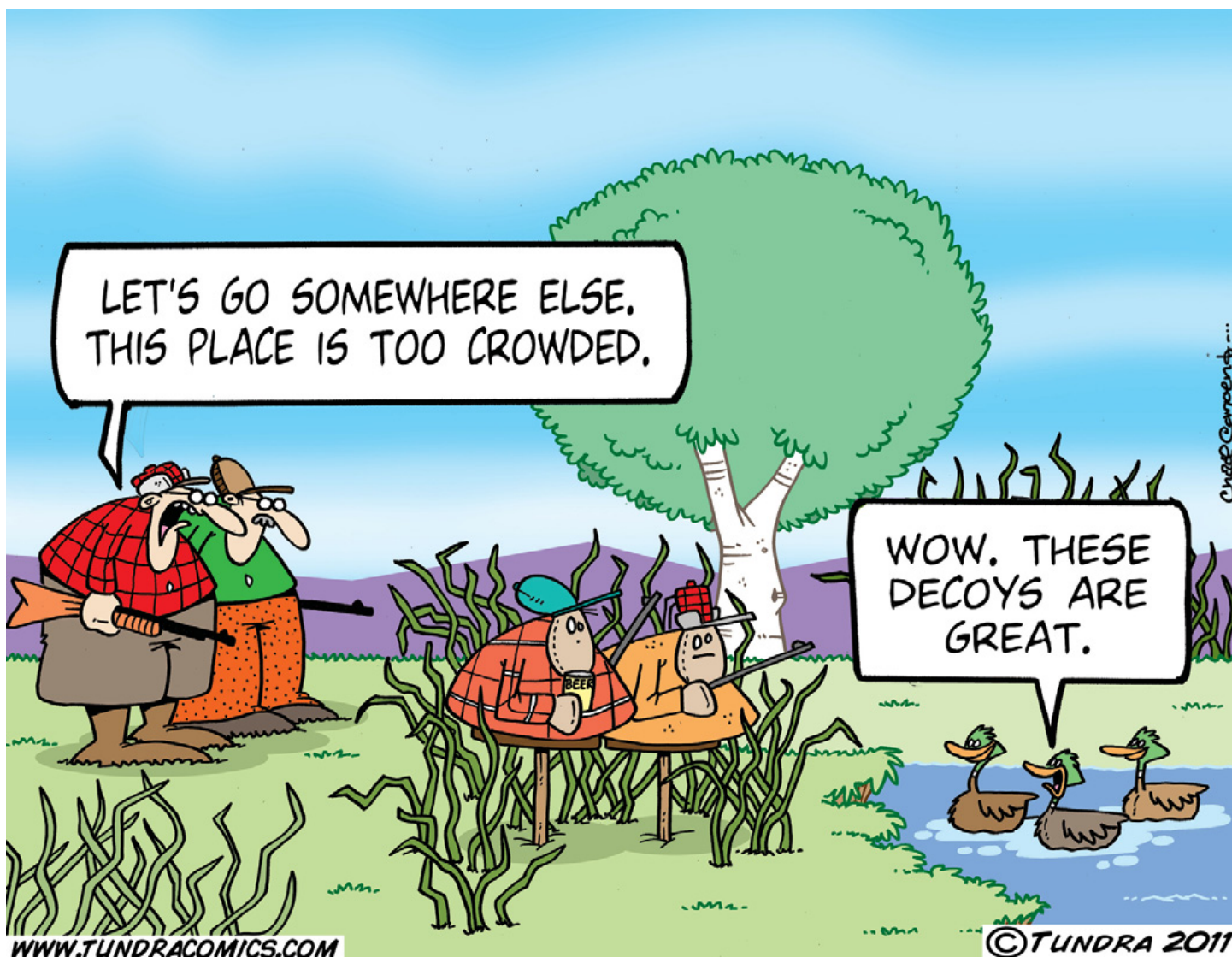
Saganash supported Mulcair because of his ability to bring Canadians together. "Tom has shown throughout this race that he has the ability to bring progressive Canadians of all stripes together, united under the NDP banner. We can create the better country that we all seek and I have great confidence that Tom will lead us to victory in 2015," added Saganash.

The vote for the leadership of the NDP will take place on March 24 in Toronto.



Romeo Saganash

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: [www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)



[WWW.TUNDRACOMICS.COM](http://WWW.TUNDRACOMICS.COM)

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# Northern treasures

**The annual Prospectors and Developers Association's conference highlighted the mineral wealth of the North**

By Will Nicholls

There are growth spurts and then there are unreal growth spurts but that is what Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) has achieved. Back in the mid 1990s the yearly conference was hosted entirely in one hotel and had perhaps 5,000 participants. This year, the 2012 conference saw 30,000 attendees creating what was one-of-the-first-but-not-last human traffic jams a Canadian conference has ever experienced.

It took two days just to make the rounds of exhibitors stopping at only a few to understand what's underground is big money as well as more possibilities and opportunities than we can imagine. Opportunities for any downtown hotel though were non-existent because of the influx of anyone wanting to be part of the PDAC experience. The boost to the Toronto's economy must have been amazing. Last year, the annual convention added an estimated \$72 million to the economy.

The promises and chances to be a part of the next big boom whether it's

gold, silver, steel or other less desired minerals, such as uranium, draws a crowd. You have the people who have

one of the figures who played a part in creating the Trollius Mine agreement between Inmet and the Mistissini First

BACK IN THE MID 1990S THE YEARLY CONFERENCE WAS HOSTED ENTIRELY IN ONE HOTEL AND HAD PERHAPS 5,000 PARTICIPANTS. THIS YEAR, THE 2012 CONFERENCE SAW 30,000 ATTENDEES.

taken a gamble on finding and developing a mine, investors looking to be a part of the opportunity and governments looking for new revenues and employment. The various levels of governments in Canada saw \$8.4 billion in royalties and taxes in 2010 alone.

And yes, Crees were on hand as were many other Aboriginal Peoples. Notable Crees, for example such as Jim MacLeod of the Cree Mineral Board, attended the conference. MacLeod was

Nation. Even though it was signed in the early 1990s, it is still considered a model for many agreements today.

MacLeod has a long history in the mining industry. He has staked claims not only for companies but also for his own company. His latest foray into the mining industry is in the environmental sector doing everything from creating reports, determining least risk containment and remediation methods, monitoring the surrounding environment to

closing the mine in a socially acceptable manner. His latest venture not only services the Cree but is actively present in other markets

CreeCo President Jack Blacksmith was on hand to ensure Cree businesses would play a part not only in Eeyou Istchee but in other parts of Canada as well. CreeCo was noticed and no doubt courted by many in the mining industry and those hoping to be a part of the latest northern opportunities.

Mary-Carmen Vera of Wemindji Exploration Inc. had an exhibit to showcase their potential. They do exploration as well as providing services to mines and mining exploration companies. The Wachiya Agreement has Wemindji Exploration and Dianor Resources Inc. partnering in a joint venture. Wemindji Exploration has staked claims for various metals and diamonds. The joint venture has resulted in 89 claims being staked.

Last year, Wemindji Exploration signed another Collaboration Agreement with Goldcorp. Board Member Mark Watson said opportunities are opening up as the mining industry realizes the potential of the North. "Our doors are always open for anyone looking for information or to discuss what Wemindji Exploration is all about," stated Watson. He said the company would like to invite trappers to come in and get information on their activities and plans. Wemindji Exploration was established in 1998.

It was a sign of the times that Glenn Nolan, a former chief of the Missinabie Cree First Nation, was voted in as the first Aboriginal president of PDAC this year. In the past, most mining companies wouldn't give the time of day to Aboriginal Peoples and their concerns. These days though social acceptability has been accepted by the mining industry as part of the costs of doing business. There is also the Supreme Court of Canada that determined there was a duty to inform and consult with the appropriate Aboriginal population that affects the industry and at times the different levels of government. Mind you, all the workshops involving or dealing with Aboriginal Peoples weren't

willing to talk about what wisdom they were imparting to the mining industry with at least one claiming proprietary information.

Nolan is expected to play an important role in addressing the many issues First Nations face when dealing with the mining industry. He feels his past, both as a chief and as a person who has worked for the mining industry, will help to "build a better relationship between the indigenous groups here in Canada and the industry". Nolan added his sensitivity and knowledge of Aboriginal issues and the industry "can create that as a bridge between the two and work together to maximize the benefits for everyone". PDAC sees reaching out to

per day, sometimes much less," Oda stated. When going through magazines she thought she was "reading an International Aid and Development magazine", and ended by thanking the industry for their support and becoming "my new best friend".

Quebec Premier Jean Charest was on the scene with Cree Grand Chief Mathew Coon Come and various hanger-ons. How important was anyone else in the rest of both entourages? They were shakers and makers ready for the 30,000 opportunities.

It was learnt that some mines in Chibougamou that had been shut down might reopen. Higher prices for the metals beneath the surface make it profitable. One of the mines was the Copper



First Nations communities and assisting them as one of their top priorities.

It is both welcomed and with a promise of transparency that our current government expressed their support for the mining industry not only in Canada but also around the world. Canada's Minister of International Relations Beverley J. Oda told the media that "mining is my new best friend". She said the mining industry has done much too improve lives around the world. "It is the mining that can raise the standard of living for thousands of impoverished people who struggle to get by on less than \$2.50

Rand Mine. It was part of a study that showed unacceptable toxins were being released into the traditional territory of the Oujé-Bougoumou First Nation. While this may have economic benefits, currently the issues and questions of contamination remain unresolved. The silver lining in this potential cloud is that new policies, laws and permits make the mistakes a thing of the past for Quebec.

However if you want to add your two cents in how Quebec should handle mining, go to: [www.inm.qc.ca/avenir-minier](http://www.inm.qc.ca/avenir-minier)

The following pages feature some of the mining companies operating in Eeyou Istchee.



# Hydlo and FRIENDS unplugged

## Monitoring Committee Members: your direct link to Hydro and the EM-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project

You often see them and hear them. They hold meetings in your communities, organize information or consultation sessions with users, host radio shows, develop communication tools and attend annual general meetings. Who are they? The members of the Monitoring Committee, a joint HQ/Cree committee celebrating five years of service in 2012!

Members of the Monitoring Committee have not been idle these last five years. They have met almost 70 times, discussed many matters of Cree interest and settled a number of issues.

The focus of these meetings has mostly been on specifications and the results of environmental follow-up studies carried out for the Eastmain projects. However, all subjects related to land users and the communities are of interest to the Monitoring Committee.



Some of the Monitoring Committee members: Robbie Tapiatic (Chisasibi), René Dion, Wilbert Shecapio (Mistissini), Carine Durocher, Lawrence Jimiken (Nemaska), Céline Belzile, Norman Cheezo (Eastmain), Marc Dunn (Niskamoon), Réal Courcelles, Hélène Tellier, Jérôme Gingras.



Cree representatives at the tallyman conference in Val-d'Or on November 29-30, 2011

### Your representative's role

The Monitoring Committee is made up of seven representatives from HQ/SEBJ, two representatives from Niskamoon and the Cree Regional Authority (CRA), and one representative from each of the six communities affected by the EM-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.

Your representative attends Monitoring Committee meetings, where he participates in all discussions and promotes his community's interests. He

is your direct link to Hydro-Québec for everything related to the Eastmain projects. He can also answer your questions and are responsible for communicating your concerns to company representatives.

And the good news is... The environmental follow-up studies will continue until 2021!

For more information, visit  
[www.hydloandfriends.com](http://www.hydloandfriends.com)



## Pacific Bay Minerals



Based in British Columbia, Pacific Bay Minerals Limited has exploration projects on the go both nationally and internationally with claims in Quebec, BC, the Yukon and Argentina.

According to David H. Brett, President & CEO of Pacific Bay Minerals, the company has three separate projects in the Otish region. The main one is a joint venture with Strateco on the surrounding claims around Strateco-owned property where the Matoush deposit is located. Strateco has 60% of this and Pacific Bay owns the other 40%.

Brett said there are other claims owned solely by Pacific Bay, but little work has been done on them in recent times because the price of uranium has been depressed for a long time and it has been difficult to raise money.

"We still think that these properties have a lot of potential and we would like to go back and continue exploring.

"People like us are hoping for the best in those discussions because that will affect everything else. There is no point in looking for uranium in a place where people don't want it to be found," said Brett.



The two other Pacific Bay projects are Otish Southwest and Papaskwasati, which Brett says is closer to Mistissini.

In recent years these projects have not been touched as they are difficult to access logistically and because of the downturn in the global economy. As a result, the company currently has no budget allocated to develop these areas.

This could change should Strateco get approval for their project as it will make it easier for other projects to get approval in the region.

"We are hoping that everything goes well and that the relationship with the local communities will be favourable. Hopefully their issues or differences can be ironed out.

"We are hopeful that we can get back in the area to do more work if the market improves because we think that uranium has a big future and hopefully in Quebec," said Brett.

For more info: [www.pacificbayminerals.com](http://www.pacificbayminerals.com)

By Amy German



## Osisko Mining Corp

A homegrown Quebec company based in Montreal, Osisko Mining Corporation's flagship is the Canadian Malartic gold deposit in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.

After several years of preparation, the company finally poured their first gold bar on April 13, 2011 and commercial gold production began soon after on May 19.

To the company's credit, Malartic represents Canada's largest gold reserve in production as their website boasts that they have "proven and probable reserves of 10.7 million ounces of gold".

Within the first 30 days alone, the Osisko's gold-milling plant managed to process an average of 33,300 tonnes per day.

Outside of their activities at the Malartic facility, Osisko is focused on acquiring, exploring, developing and mining gold properties. Their end game is to become a leading mid-tier gold producer.

Osisko is currently pursuing four other exploration projects in Canada: Quebec (Dunn), Ontario (Hammond Reef, Mountjoy) and Nova Scotia (Goldboro).

Environmentally conscious, Osisko has always strived to minimize its carbon footprint while on the job site and to employ sustainable development wherever possible on the development site.

Beyond that, the company will be engaging in a reforestation project for various municipal land lots in the region and this project will be jointly implemented by officials of the Vallée-de-l'Or regional municipality.

For more info: [www.osisko.com](http://www.osisko.com)

By Amy German





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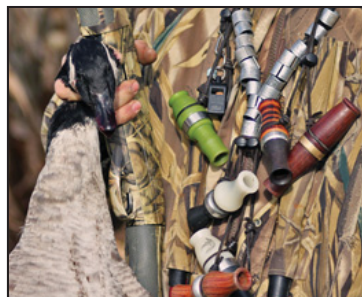
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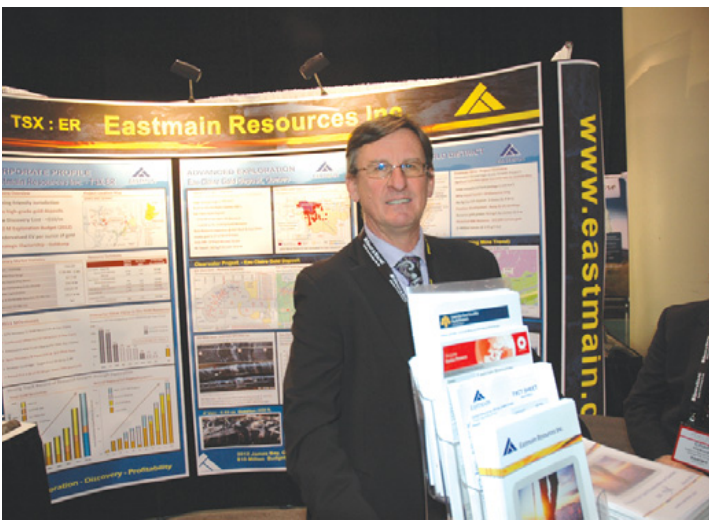


# Eastmain Resources Inc.

Just 50 km south of Goldcorp's Éléonore mining project and just a few clicks away from EM-1 is Eastmain Resources Inc.'s Clearwater flagship, the Eau Claire deposit.

As President Don Robinson explains, the company was drawn to the area because it has the same mineral potential as that of Val-d'Or, Timmins and Red Lake regions but without the difficulty mining companies have faced in the past when it comes to obtaining land.

The disadvantage he said was that because it hasn't been developed, very little is known about the area. Robinson and his com-



pany have been exploring their claim near EM-1 for around 17 years now and they have made discoveries.

"There are five gold deposits that have been found up there and then there are other elements. Of the five gold deposits, we own two and Goldcorp owns one. Goldcorp owns a deposit, which is likely to be a Canadian leader, if not ultimately a world leader, in terms of size and economics.

"We have the second largest there in our Clearwater flagship, which is becoming significant because of its size," said Robinson.

Fortunately for Eastmain Resources, Hydro-Québec has already built a road to access EM-1 in this region so instead of going by floatplane like they did in the past, they can drive to the property.

Now, 17 years on, it seems that progress is about to happen for Eastmain Resources.

"We are approaching a pre-development stage. We have outlined a deposit and have what is called a 43-101 resource and so there is both an open-pit and an underground resource. It is extremely high grade, the third highest grade for undeveloped projects for an open pit, and we think it will ultimately make the difference," explained Robinson.

While the Eau Claire deposit is still being explored, according to Robinson, there is more than a fair amount of gold in it, have 600,000 ounces that are "open pitable" and another 1 million ounces underground by the company's estimates.

At present, Eastmain Resources' goal is to keep going at it with a backhoe and a diamond drill to unearth what is there, trying to see the geometry and the limits of the deposit.

"Right now we are approaching the point where we change the threshold of the project. It was in the 0.3-to-3 million ounce category and we think it is now approaching the 3-5 million ounce category.

"In contrast, Goldcorp is in the 5-10 million ounce category on their project and it is my opinion that they are going to go north of that. And so worldwide, what we are looking at is that there are 41 gold deposits that are high grade, better than 3 million ounces and in North America there are not very many. This is why we think that ours is important enough to be of interest," said Robinson.

This is not to say that they are trying to compete with Goldcorp as they are Eastmain's largest stockholder and Robinson says that this is a very good thing as they are excellent at developing projects.

Comparing the two projects, Robinson said that by no means are they comparable size-wise, but when in production the Eau Claire deposit will be producing enough to make an impact to most, if not all of the gold companies in Canada and maybe elsewhere.

With all of the training going on in the region for those who will be working for Goldcorp in the near future, by the time Eastmain is ready to start building, a built-in local work force will be available to them.

For more info: [www.eastmain.com](http://www.eastmain.com)

By Amy German







# Labrador Iron Mines

Boasting that they are "Canada's newest high-growth iron-ore producer", Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Limited (LIM) has their efforts focused on the Schefferville Projects, which span from northeastern Quebec over to western Labrador.

With 400,000 tonnes of iron-ore product sold in 2011, operating permits and agreements in place for this year, a large and increasing resource base and exploration upside and a low-cost, un-hedged production with no restrictive offtakes, this company has made itself a major player in the region.

According to the company's website, the Schefferville Projects comprise 20 direct shipping iron-ore deposits forming part of the historic Schefferville area iron-ore district where mining of adjacent deposits was previously carried out by the Iron Ore Company of Canada from 1954 to 1982. LIM plans mining in varying stages, the first of which comprises the James and Redmond deposits located in close proximity to existing infrastructure.

Managing to renew the industry to the region, this company managed to send out the first loaded iron-ore train in over 30 years on June 29, 2011, during the company's start-up and pre-commercial production period.



It should also be noted that according to company President John F. Kearney, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come is on its Board of Directors.

For more info: <http://www.labradorironmines.ca>

By Amy German

## INDIANS AND ALIENS

"Indians and Aliens" is a documentary TV series about unidentified aerial phenomena (also known as UFOs) that have been witnessed in and around Cree communities.

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## C-Bay Minerals Inc.

In November, the newly minted company C-Bay Minerals took over the Lac Doré Complex of eight mines in the Chibougamau/ Oujé-Bougoumou area. C-Bay Minerals Inc., jointly owned by Nuinsco Resources Limited, based in Toronto, and Ocean Partners Holdings Limited, headquartered in London, England, intends to revitalize the region's copper-mining industry.

Mining in Chibougamau/ Oujé is a tricky proposition. On the one hand, the town in its present form exists as a result of the mining companies that flocked to the area in the 1950s, turning what had originally been a small Cree community into a company mining town. However, on the other hand, residents are all-too aware of the damage that mining can do. In 2008, the Nation obtained documents from the Quebec environment ministry showing that the past half-century of mining had left water in Oujé heavily contaminated with arsenic, copper, nickel, lead and zinc.

This proved what residents had known for a long time, particularly since 2001, when Christopher Covell, a scientist hired by the Grand Council of the Crees, said that the contamination in Oujé "makes the Love Canal look like a dirty backyard".

Roland Horst, CEO of C-Bay Minerals as of mid-February 2012, feels the community has no reason to be worried about C-Bay's resumption of work in the area.

"I represent both the company's shareholders and the community," Horst said. "In all companies I've been involved in the past, I've seen first-hand how important it is to be responsible, which means respecting the environment and the community. We want to get people in the Chibougamau area working again, but we have to do it responsibly."

Over the next year, C-Bay Minerals will reopen operations at the Corner Bay mine beneath the south end of Lac Chibougamau. That mine was shuttered just as it was beginning operations in 2008, when the price of copper plummeted.

"Certainly we do continuous water testing," said Horst, "And before we start operations, we're going to look at the tailings pond, obviously, to make sure additional tailings can go in. We'll start small, with 500 to 1,000 tonnes per day. When the mine was operational, it was producing 2,200 to 2,400 tonnes a day, but it will be a while before we get up to that level of production. Eventually we'd like to get it up to capacity, which is 3,000 tonnes a day, but it will be four or five years before we can even begin thinking about doing that."

Sean Stokes, Nuinsco's VP Corporate Affairs, pointed out that C-Bay has a Vice President, Environment and Sustainable Development, Dr. David Mchaina.



"That's something we'd like to put forward as a point of difference between our company and the way things have been done in the past," Stokes said. "Typically, companies of our size don't have resources like that."

As well, Horst added, C-Bay's general manager Jean Tanguay grew up in Chibougamau and was once a Campbell mine project manager.

"He's integrated into the community," said Horst. "That makes him a valuable guy to refer to on environmental issues."

Horst pointed out that the company is consulting with the Cree Nation and will continue to do so. Eventually, Horst expects the mine to provide work to 300 to 400 miners from the area.

He pointed out that many Oujé and Chibougamau residents fly north to work on mines for companies like Goldcorp.

"A lot of those guys would rather work closer to home if they could," he said. "So it's important that we have the support of the community behind us. We want to create opportunities for the Cree Nation as well as for guys from Chibougamau. And we want to help the economy, obviously, but we want to do it properly, in a way that's environmentally and socially responsible."

To date, no one has contradicted C-Bay's claims of environmental responsibility.

Ramsey Hart of Ottawa's MiningWatch Canada said that, to date, he's not aware of any concerns expressed about the new mining to be undertaken by C-Bay.

"We don't generally hear a lot about mines starting up," he said. "In established mining camps like Chibougamau, people may be willing to overlook the long-term implications of it, or more willing to accept the environmental impacts. It's not a big surprise to me that no one's gotten in touch about this new operation."

For more info: [www.nuinsco.ca](http://www.nuinsco.ca)

By Jesse Staniforth





Stornoway and its Cree partners are  
extremely pleased to host the official  
signing ceremony of the  
**Mecheshoo Agreement,**

the framework for sustainable cooperation during all stages  
of the life of the Renard Diamond Mine.

Join us on **Tuesday, March 27** from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
in the **Sports Complex Neoskweskau.**

A traditional feast will be served.



Hélène Robitaille  
Community Relations Manager  
Training & Development  
[hrobitaille@stornowaydiamonds.com](mailto:hrobitaille@stornowaydiamonds.com)

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# Goldcorp Inc.

February was a strange month for Vancouver's Goldcorp Inc., Canada's largest producer of gold and the company in charge of opening the Éléonore mining project in the Wemindji area.

In early February, Goldcorp chairman Ian Telfer was named as a person being investigated by the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) with relation to an insider trading scheme.

Between 2007 and 2008, Eda Marie Agueci, a longtime friend of Telfer's and executive assistant to the chairman of GMP Securities LP, allegedly arranged insider trades for eight friends and acquaintances that resulted in profits of nearly \$1-million.

According to the OSC's documents, Telfer is accused of having advised Agueci about how to keep her security deals secret from her employers, to whom she was required to report all such information to make sure she was following regulatory procedures. Telfer is also accused of having offered Agueci the opportunity to buy shares of a mining company called 222 Pizza Express Corp. in a private share offering, and having advised Agueci to buy the shares in her brother's name to keep the transaction a secret. 222 Pizza Express Corp. was later renamed Gold Wheaton Inc.

Telfer has responded that he did nothing wrong.

"I do not believe that there is anything wrong with my conduct," he said in an interview with the Toronto Star. "It is an everyday occurrence in the Canadian business world."

In its official statement on the matter, Goldcorp itself underlines that "The OSC allegations [against Mr. Telfer] do not involve any conduct related to Goldcorp. Goldcorp has not been contacted by the OSC regarding any aspect of this investigation, nor do we expect to be, as this is a completely separate matter from Ian's role as Chairman of Goldcorp's board. Goldcorp has never had any formal or informal business association with Gold Wheaton. Ian has conducted himself with absolute integrity and a deep sense of responsibility to the shareholders of Goldcorp."

In mid-February, however, Goldcorp also announced that it had achieved record revenues of \$5.4-billion in 2011, which reflects the sale of 2,500,000 ounces of gold. The price of gold went up to a record \$1,800 an ounce, which enabled the company to reap such great revenues.

In a speech to the Economic Club of Canada only two days after the OSC's allegations against him were published, Telfer announced that he expected gold prices to reach \$2,500 per ounce this year, and \$5,000 per ounce within three years.

These rising prices come at a time when Goldcorp is investing in mines around the Americas. Last year, Goldcorp opened the Penasquito mine in Mexico, and is planning for the openings of the Pueblo Viejo mine in the Dominican Republic this year and the Cerro Negro mine in Argentina next year,



along with the Cochenour mine in Red Lake, Ontario, and the Éléonore mine in Wemindji in 2014.

Wemindji's Éléonore mine project, which was given the go-ahead by the Quebec government in November 2011, is expected to be one of the country's largest underground mines, providing an additional 600,000 ounces of gold per year to Goldcorp (for a gross of \$1.08-billion at present-day gold prices).

In January 2011, Wemindji's Chief and Council backed an agreement of collaboration between Goldcorp and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) along with the Cree Regional Authority. The agreement, which was finalized in February 2011, states that "Goldcorp recognizes and respects Cree rights and interests in the area", and that the Cree Nation "recognize[s] and support[s] Goldcorp's rights and interests in the development and operation of the project".

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come described the agreement as "a vibrant example where, with the participation of the Crees, mining development can take place and prosper in Eeyou Istchee." He went on to say that the agreement marked "the beginning of a collaborative and fruitful relationship [...] based on respect for Cree rights and environmental and economic sustainability."

Reached by phone at Goldcorp's Vancouver headquarters, Christine Marks, Goldcorp's Corporate Communications Manager, said that OSC's allegations against Telfer should have no impact at all on the community of Wemindji or the development of the Éléonore mine.

"Mr. Telfer has a long history in the business," Marks said, "with an excellent reputation for upholding the interests of the shareholders at Goldcorp."

For more info: [www.goldcorp.com](http://www.goldcorp.com)

By Jesse Staniforth



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Éléonore, a project at the construction stage located specifically in the James Bay territory of the Nord-du-Québec region, has been the property of Goldcorp since 2006. The company is currently building several infrastructures and conducting engineering studies in order to turn this project into a world-class mine. Goldcorp is committed to the principles of sustainable development, which guarantee the prosperity of the company's partners and the communities with which it interacts.

In order to support the advancement of the important Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp is seeking the expertise and valuable knowledge of the inhabitants of the region to fill several mining positions. The Éléonore project team is looking for energetic, proud and, above all, motivated people who want to take part in a global project.

Join us and participate in the development of this project!

### JUNIOR MINING ENGINEER - réf. : 30-010

Reporting to the Chief Engineer, the Junior Mining Engineer is responsible for underground ventilation. He must maintain the equipment and implement the necessary corrective measures. He must also train the workers with regard to ventilation and comply with health and safety standards. In addition, he must take part in drilling programs and various engineering projects, and provide support.

The suitable candidate must hold a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He must also have a good knowledge of the PROMINE, Mine2-4D and Ventsim mining software. Experience in the operation of an underground mine is an advantage. In addition, the candidate must be a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec. Bilingualism (French and English) is an asset.

The work schedule consists of 4 days of work followed by 3 days off. The position is based at the location of the mine.

### MINE SUPERVISOR - réf. : 60-030

Reporting to the Mining Operations Coordinator, the Mine Supervisor is responsible for planning, organizing and supervising subsurface development activities. He must work in close collaboration with the various departments to ensure daily and weekly planning. Furthermore, he must ensure compliance with environment, health and safety standards.

The suitable candidate must have college-level training in mineral technology or a related field, and ideally a minimum of 10 years' experience in the underground mining sector, including at least five years in supervisory roles. College education could be offset by a significant supervision experience. Bilingualism (French and English) is a major asset.

The work schedule consists of 14 days of work followed by 14 days off. The position is based at the location of the mine.



Interested qualified candidates should send their resume by E-Mail before March 19, 2012. Candidates must mention the posting reference number. Goldcorp – Éléonore project . Human Resources Department [Opinacajobs@goldcorp.com](mailto:Opinacajobs@goldcorp.com)

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Goldcorp – Éléonore project support the principle of equal access to employment. We thank all applicants for their interest. However, we will only contact those selected for an interview.

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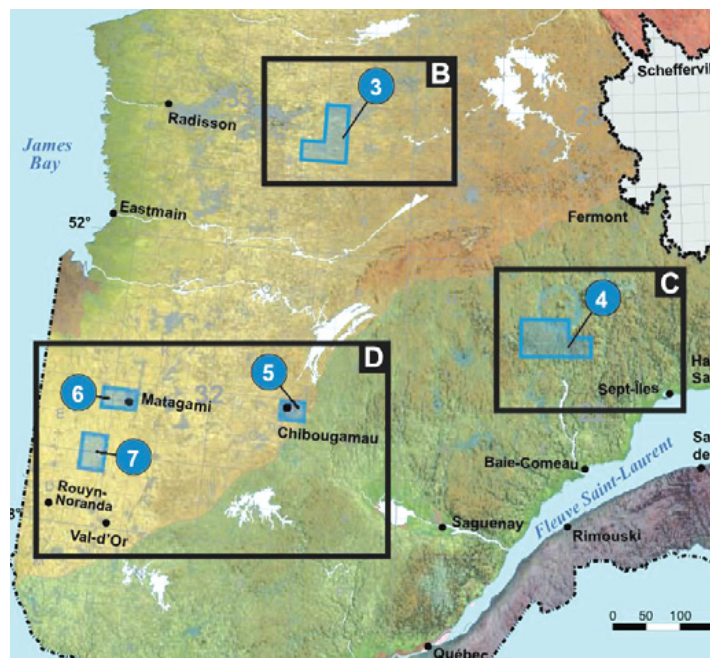


# Maps and mining in northern Quebec

Mining in northern Quebec was once a “hit-and-miss” prospect. Miners might hear stories about shiny or glittering objects found on the surface of the land by Cree trappers. Prospectors would arrive looking to confirm the story. Sometimes the hunch would pan out and the miner would strike it rich. Other times, they came away with a lot of good fishing stories, mostly about the ones that got away. Today, things have changed enormously in the prospector’s favour.

Géologie Québec has published an eight-page booklet entitled “New Mineral Exploration Targets”. It provides clues to four geological regions from Ungava Bay to Val-d’Or and Matagami, to the region near the La Grande-3 reservoirs, and areas near Chapais and Chibougamau. They provide clues for mining interests big and small by pointing out key geological features, such as the presence of zinc and copper in language that only a geological engineer could love: “Central part of the anticlinal crest: possibility of ‘lac Watson’ type rhyolites.”

Those words might sound like Martian to you and me but they probably sound sweet to the ears of a miner. The booklet concentrates on seven regions with most of them in Eeyou Istchee or areas of interest. The booklet cautions that the information it provides is not a guarantee that mining activity will be either productive or profitable.



THOSE WORDS MIGHT SOUND LIKE  
MARTIAN TO YOU AND ME BUT THEY  
PROBABLY SOUND SWEET TO THE EARS  
OF A MINER.

“This knowledge is acquired in order to encourage the mining industry to develop Quebec’s mineral resources by increasing exploration activity and discovering new deposits,” it states.

“During their fieldwork, geologists of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune identified zones with a favourable geological setting for mineral exploration.”

Anyone interested in finding out more go to: “Gestion des titres miniers – Gestim.” [gestim.mines.gouv.qc.ca](http://gestim.mines.gouv.qc.ca)

Or they may download the booklet here: [www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/produits-services/mines.jsp](http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/produits-services/mines.jsp)

Interested parties are also encouraged to contact the geologists directly; their email addresses are listed along with the region they studied.

By Daniel David



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# May the best dogs win

By Daniel Coyle

**Participants brave the cold (and warmth) at First Nations dogsled races**



photos courtesy of Isabelle Dubois

It may feel like spring in the southern regions of Quebec, but that is not keeping mushers from taking part in two dogsled races this month.

Despite freezing rain in the days leading up to the event and temperatures forecast to be well above freezing on race weekend, the Fourth International Dogsled Race of Wendake is expected to go ahead as scheduled on March 17-18. Taking place in Wendake, the only Huron-Wendat community in Canada, located only 15 minutes outside downtown Quebec City, the races feature more than 60 dogsled teams, competing in a number of categories such as 6-, 8- and 12-dog teams. To make things interesting, participants are competing for a grand total \$12,500 in prize money.

All races take place on a 16-km trail located on a railway corridor through the community of Wendake. Race start and finish lines are located near Wendake's renowned Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, which will also serve as the focal point for the weekend's activities.

In addition to dogsledding, a number of family-oriented activities are planned. This will include an outdoor eating area offering traditional Wendat cuisine, and a Cabane à sucre, better known in English as a "sugar shack", which will be providing sweet treats. Visitors will also have the chance to learn the basics of snowshoeing and participate in dogsled tours through the community between races. The weekend will be capped with an

awards presentation on the afternoon of March 18.

Warm weather was not a concern for organizers of the 2012 Ivakkak Dog Team Race, the most grueling and one of the most popular events to take place in Quebec's Far North. In fact, heavy snow and high winds delayed the start of race by a day for the 11 participating teams. Finally getting underway on March 13,

## THE IVAKKAK RACE TESTS THE ENDURANCE OF MAN AND DOG ALIKE.

the Ivakkak race tests the endurance of man and dog alike, as the teams wind their way across the North from Kangisualujjuaq to Kangirsuk. The race is expected to last approximately 10 days, depending on the whims of Mother Nature, with stopovers planned in Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq and Aupaluk.

All of the teams hail from Inuit communities across Nunavik, and are composed of 8 to 12 husky dogs each, led by a master and race partner. The race trail covers a distance of over 650-km, following the coast of Ungava Bay. In addi-

tion to the challenges posed by potentially harsh weather conditions, each team must follow tough race rules that force them to be self-sufficient, and to transport all the supplies they will need to complete their journey on their sleds.

An interesting aspect of this year's race is a rule change that will have a dramatic impact on race strategy. In past years, the race was a time race, meaning that mushers had to stop at the end of each day and camp out together at predetermined checkpoints. This year, aside from mandatory layover periods in Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq and Aupaluk, the mushers will manage their own schedules and make their own decisions as to how they manage their dog teams. The first team to make it to Kangirsuk will be declared the winner.

At the finish line, the 2012 Ivakkak champion be presented with the Ivakkak Cup, and will receive a \$12,000 gift certificate from the Federation of Co-operatives of Northern Quebec (FCNQ), a \$12,500 cash prize from the Makivik Corporation, organizers of the race, as well return flights to Montreal from First Air, with accommodation at the Quality Inn Suites. Cash and product prizes will also be presented to the silver and bronze medalists, and draws for prizes will be held for other participating teams.

Fans can keep up-to-date as the race progresses by visiting the Ivakkak 2012 website at [www.ivakkak.com](http://www.ivakkak.com), or by tuning in to TNI radio or CBC North.







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# CREE HOCKEY

## News & Notes

Story and photos by Daniel Coyle



### NAHC Tryouts

With the 2012 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) fast approaching, tryouts have now been scheduled for the teams that will go to Saskatoon representing Eastern Door and North (EDN). Team organizers are seeking male players born in 1994 or 1995, and female players born in 1992 or 1993 to participate in the camp, which takes place at the Kahnawake Sports Complex, just outside Montreal, on the weekend of March 24-25. The cost to attend the tryout camp is \$50, and attendees need to arrange their own travel to and from Kahnawake.

According to Kenny Kane, assistant coach of the men's team, the competition will be tough. At the 2011 NAHC, the EDN men's team reached the tourney final before being defeated by Saskatchewan.

The EDN camp schedule is below. All attendees are expected to check in at the Kahnawake Recreation complex well before the start of the first tryout session. To register for the EDN tryout camp, contact Kenny Kane at 450-638-3316, or Jesse Spencer at 1-866-923-3560.

### EDN Tryout Camp Schedule

March 24, 2012

11:00 am - 12:30 pm – Men's tryouts  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Women's tryouts  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Men's tryouts

March 25, 2012

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Men's tryouts  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Women's tryouts  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Men's tryouts

### OCN Blizzard advance to MJHL Final Four

The OCN Blizzard of the MJHL have advanced to the Sherwood Division Final for the first time since 2006 after defeat-



OCN Blizzard Team Photo

ing the Swan Valley Stampeders in their best of seven series, four games to two. The Blizzard moves on to face the Winnipeg Saints for the right to play in the MJHL Final. Games 1 and 2 of the series take place on Blizzard home ice on March 16-17. All MJHL playoff games are streamed live online. Pick up the feed at <http://mjhl.neulion.com>.

In addition, the OCN Blizzard will also be hosting their 2012 Spring Camp April 13-15 at the Gordon Lathlin Memorial Centre in Opaskwayak Cree Nation/The Pas, Manitoba. The club is actively seeking players who have the skill, work ethic, enthusiasm and desire to succeed at the Junior "A" level. Camp is open to players

born between 1994 and 1997. For more info: [www.ocnblizzard.com](http://www.ocnblizzard.com)

### Tournament Action

The Recreational Hockey and Broomball tournament season wrapped up on March 11 in Chisasibi at the community's 29th Annual Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament. The Wemindji Wolves took home the tourney's Class A Hockey banner by defeating the Waskaganish Renegades in the final by a score of 8-5. Justin Otter led the way for Wemindji with a four-goal performance, and led all scorers in the tourney with 11 goals and eight assists.

In Class B Hockey action, the Big River Impact capped an undefeated run throughout the tournament with a 4-1 victory over the Whapmagoostui Tomahawks in the Class B final. The Tomahawks won on the strength of solid goaltending; giving up only seven goals during their five tournament games.

The Recreational Hockey Division was dominated by local teams, with five of the six teams competing hailing from Chisasibi. The final saw the Chisasibi Relics take on the Chisasibi Pash Moar, with the Relics capping a dominant tournament performance with four third-period goals to notch a 5-2 victory. John Rupert led the way with two goals including the game winner, while teammate Adrian Chiskamish led all scorers with seven goals and three assists throughout the tournament.

In Women's Broomball, the Wemindji Ice Stars came from behind in the final to defeat the Waskaganish Starlites by a score of 3-1. Wemindji's Monica Visitor led all scorers in the tourney with three goals and two assists including the tying goal early in the second period of the final, sparking the Ice Stars comeback.





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The contest will run from March 14 to April 22, 2012 and is only open to residents of the Aboriginal communities of Eeyou Istchee who are 18 years of age or older. One entry per participant. The prize will be drawn and the winner announced on April 25 at 8:30 a.m., during the broadcast of the Hydlo and Friends program on JBCCS.

## Addressing Cree Education

To the Nation,

This letter is in response to the editorial by Daniel David ("The Cree way", Vol. 19, No. 06, January 27, 2012). As Chairperson of the Cree School Board, I welcome the opinions and perspectives of others regarding educational issues and the Cree School Board. I was disappointed, however, to see that Mr. David's editorial contained some inaccuracies regarding the Cree as a Language of Instruction Program (CLIP).

First, I do not dispute the dire situation and potential for loss of some First Nations' languages. I recall a study (Norris 2007) which claimed that the Cree language was one of three First Nations languages in Canada that had a better chance to survive. Despite this optimistic view of the Cree language, I agree that we, as a Cree Nation, cannot be too complacent about how we preserve our language. The onus for the preservation and perpetuation of the Cree language should not, however, fall solely on the shoulders of the Cree School Board.

Second, the Cree School Board has been in existence for thirty-four (34) years since its incorporation in 1978. Fifty years ago, the education of Cree children was under the auspices of the federal government. As most Cree know with the exception of Mr. David it seems, many Cree children were forced to attend residential schools; Cree was forbidden in these schools. Yet it survived. The right to include Cree language and culture into the curriculum was gained through the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Third, the theory is children who have a strong foundation in their maternal languages will learn a second language faster than children who do not. The reality in the Cree world of today is children who come to Day Care Centres, Pre-K and Kindergarten are speaking some Cree/English,

Cree/French or only Cree; therefore, most Cree children do not possess a strong foundation in their maternal language when they start school.

Fourth, the Cree School Board conducted an extensive assessment on the state of Cree Education in 2006-07. The report, "Communication, Accountability

the parents indicated their preference for the SO-SO language model. In his editorial, Mr. David created an impression that the CSB did not consult with the parents; he could have easily verified this fact had he contacted the Cree School Board.

Fifth, at the Joint Council Board and Cree School Board meeting held in



for School Improvement" (CAFSI), was tabled at a Council of Commissioners' meeting in 2008. In addition to its CAFSI Report, the CSB also commissioned a research project which specifically focused on the CLI Program. Both studies found that the children were not mastering any of the three languages. These two CSB research projects validated the results of the one conducted by the community of Mistissini a few years earlier. The findings of the two CSB research projects were given to the parents and other members who participated in the CSB Community Tours in the winter of 2011. At these community tours, 70% of the parents and other community members indicated their preference for the 50-50 language model while another group preferred the 80-20 model. As well, as I understand from the Deputy Director General, the CSB also conducted two surveys for parents in Chisasibi wherein

November 2011, the Director of Education Services for the CSB, very succinctly, explained why the CLI Program did not work. The CLI Program, she stated, was rushed through and was not well thought out. The development of the curriculum and training of the Cree language teachers were done almost simultaneously; the teachers were expected to develop their teaching materials while teaching. No in depth training was provided to Cree language teachers to provide them with the specializations in curriculum development and language teaching. There was also no process in place for monitoring and evaluating the CLI Program on a Board-wide basis. There were no specific outcomes set to identify the skills and competencies which the students were to master at each level. Without these pertinent benchmarks, it was not possible to evaluate the program to ensure the students mastered





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### **Ouje-Bougoumou**

Monday April 16, 9 am - 5 pm  
(at the Sports Centre by the  
community entrance -- contact  
Samuel Dixon)

### **Waswanipi**

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the language skills and competencies they should have attained at each level.

Faced with the stark reality on the state of Cree education, the Council of Commissioners and its administration had to make some difficult decisions. Since 2008, the CSB developed a Council Policy Manual, a Strategic Action Plan and a School Improvement Plan. As well, because of the findings of the research on the CLI Program, it was decided to do a thorough review of the Cree aspects of the curriculum, namely Cree Culture and Cree Language, both of which are on hold for the time being. All this was explained to the parents and members who attended the Community tours.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the Cree and Culture programs; some are erroneously assuming that the CSB is doing away with the CLIP, Cree language and Cree Culture alto-

gether. This is far from the truth. For some time now, some schools have had to suspend either the Cree language or Culture program or both because of the lack of qualified personnel to teach the courses in these programs. In addition, some Cree parents are asking for the introduction of the second languages at an earlier stage than is allowed under the CLI Program. It is safe to say that no one at the Council and administrative levels of the CSB wants to see Cree Language or Cree Culture taken out of the Cree education system. Rather the aim is to do a proper evaluation and review of these aspects. The other pertinent task is to identify the skills and competencies that are to be attained at each grade level. A proper system for monitoring and evaluating the programs needs to be developed. The Cree School Board hopes to develop a proper, better CLI

Program and Cree Culture curriculum, as well as developing Cree curricula in history and in other disciplines with the assistance of Cree Elders and Cree education professionals.

I've always assumed that good journalism strives to present an unbiased view of an issue. Rather than sensationalizing the Cree Language issue and presenting some inaccuracies, Mr. David could have done better justice to the topic had he researched his topic properly. The issues of Cree language and Cree culture are important to the Cree School Board. It has to carefully consider the prominent role these two aspects will have within the Cree education without repeating the same mistakes as it did in the past.

**Kathleen J. Wootton**

*Chairperson, Cree School Board*



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ELECTIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF:

**YOUTH GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON**  
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**Thursday, May 31, 2012** Polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Nomination forms** will be available from **March 8-29, 2012** at your local Youth Departments or from the following:

**Iris Voyageur**  
Chief Electoral Officer - CNYC  
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Cell: (819) 865-0043  
Fax: (418) 923-2674  
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**Mary Jane Moar**  
Assistant Electoral Officer - CNYC  
Office: (819) 895-2223  
Cell: (819) 865-0078  
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By Lyle Stewart

## Making a choice

If the practice of politics is famously known as the art of the possible, the historic success of the New Democratic Party in last year's federal election was a masterpiece of the oeuvre: the perennially minor parliamentary player smashed conventional wisdom with an astonishing breakthrough that the smart money had always rejected as unlikely, if not impossible.

But it didn't happen by accident. Millions of Canadians who had never before supported the party didn't make the switch just because of the late Jack Layton's famous smile. In Quebec, ground zero of this political earthquake, it took years of largely unseen preparation, long nights of hard work and a series of carefully calibrated political appeals to make this seismic political shift possible.

Now, as the almost 130,000 members of the federal NDP begin to make their choice for the person to replace Jack Layton as leader, the stakes have never been higher. Whoever emerges as the Leader of the Official Opposition on March 24 will assume a level of responsibility that goes far beyond internal party politics.

As we have seen since Stephen Harper's Tories narrowly won their coveted majority only 10 months ago, our democracy may not survive the ordeal. There is no point in pulling punches here: It is imperative that the Conservatives be defeated in the next election, or, at the very least, be reduced to a weak minority.

Who, among the seven remaining candidates, is best able to accomplish this mission? Will NDP members endorse the choice of the party establishment, Brian Topp? Or will they choose the slick Johnny-come-lately to social democracy, the former Quebec

Liberal cabinet minister Thomas Mulcair? Yes, there are other valid, credible candidates in the race. But these two largely represent what some are portraying as an epic struggle for the soul of a party that has long prided itself on not selling out its values in a craven quest for political power.

The conceit is not completely true. Not many prominent New Democrats are still campaigning to nationalize the country's banks, for instance. But there is an increasingly nasty effort to portray Mulcair as unworthy of the NDP leadership; that he is essentially a Trojan horse who would betray the party's dearest principles.

For myself, this is not an abstract question. Regular readers of this column know where I stand on the political spectrum. The NDP's leadership race is even more personal for me since for the first time I now have a vote: I could no longer stand on the sidelines delivering more-or-less detached analysis and critical commentary (which happen to be among my favourite activities). This time I feel my duty as a citizen is to engage, to assume the responsibility of our democratic privilege at a time it is threatened as never before in the modern era.

But I hesitated. Many of the people in the party I greatly respect depict Mulcair's candidacy as a heresy to the cherished social democratic principles that I share. Some, the "ABM" folks, got involved in Topp's campaign simply as an effort to stop Mulcair.

There are caveats to be sure. He is blunt on saying he would not reopen Canada's free trade agreements, something I have long felt to be an important goal for any future progressive government. He waves away the popular party position of raising taxes on the wealthy



as a needless political handicap. On foreign policy, he unabashedly supports Israel, which is a *prima facie* failure of the litmus test among the NDP left.

Despite this, I have come to the conclusion that Thomas Mulcair is the only candidate who has any shot at defeating Stephen Harper's Conservative government. And that is the highest priority. I don't have to worship the party leader to work for the health of my country.

Romeo Saganash, after his recent withdrawal from the leadership race, has come to a similar conclusion. His endorsement of Mulcair on March 7 had a sobering effect on the campaign. And that's something that I am noting: Brian Topp's biggest backers jumped on his bandwagon last summer before the race was really under way. Mulcair's biggest endorsements are coming near the end of the campaign after all the candidates' strengths and weaknesses have been well exposed and evaluated.

And that, despite my initial misgivings and policy disagreements, is why I will vote for Thomas Mulcair as NDP leader. He is the only person in this race who I feel can create the possibility of progressive change in this dark political era.





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## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

### New school in Attawapiskat is a dream come true

by Xavier Kataquapit

In June 2000, I wrote a column on the J.R. Nakogee Elementary School and the fact that it had been closed down due to contamination from an estimated 70,000 litres of diesel fuel over many years of leakage. I pointed out that it was distressing to know that the leakage had been going on for years and parents as well as educators were lobbying for something to be done. Well, guess what? – the federal government announced March 6 that it was moving ahead with plans to finally build a new school for the children of Attawapiskat. There are a lot of happy kids and parents in my home community right now.

It seems impossible that it would have taken so long for the government to do the right thing and commit to building a new school. If the same situation had happened in the non-Native world in cities or towns anywhere across this country, I am sure a new school would have been built a lot sooner. However, let's give thanks to the federal government, John Duncan, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and to all the people who worked so hard to make the new school a reality.

Let's face it, there are often many people behind successful lobbying campaigns and in this case I was very proud to see so many students from Attawapiskat involved in fighting for their new school. As a matter of fact the entire community is very proud of Shannen Koostachin, who at the young age of 15 rose to the challenge and led a student movement to fight for a new school. Sadly, she lost her life in a road accident during this process and I know that her parents, Andrew and Jenny, will find some healing in the fact that Shannen's dream, through her hard work for a new school, has come true. We will all keep her memory alive with this great achievement.

Thanks must also be given to the current Chief, Theresa Spence, and her council as well as past Chiefs and councils for lobbying tirelessly for the new school. As well, the local educators, parents and most of all the students must be championed for their dedication in working for a brand-new, state-of-the-art educational facility. The people of Attawapiskat also know that MP Charlie Angus and MPP Gilles Bisson were

there for the community from the very beginning in the fight for a new school. They worked tirelessly helping to organize the community to lobby the government and they brought the issue before governments, the media and ultimately the public. We will remember their dedication to our First Nation and the students in making Shannen's dream a reality.

Schools are important in any community, but what many people don't understand is that they are such an integral part of what makes a healthy First Nation. I know from my own experience that kids in First Nations that have schools see these facilities as places of safety and learning. These are places of refuge and they give our children hope. I was always happy to be able to head out to school every day and I was introduced to a whole new world through the work of so many teachers. I watched as more and more of our people graduated and went on to become teachers and leaders in the community. It was great for our young people to know that they did not have to leave their families and community to attend school outside the First Nation. We had our own schools and that was a huge deal considering what our parents had to go through in being forced to leave and attend religious residential schools.

So, we can certainly choose to be bitter about the amount of time and the inconvenience we put our children through in second-class, cold and imperfect portables while the long fight went on for a new school. Yes, we could be bitter and angry that the fight was so lengthy and hard, but it is much better to take the high road and celebrate the fact that our children of Attawapiskat will have a wonderful new school to call their own. When completed, the 5,808-square-metre new school will accommodate 540 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The new school is expected to open during the 2013-2014 school year.

It took Shannen Koostachin, who headed up the largest youth-led movement in Canada, to bring together students, teachers, parents and leaders across this country to remind us all that hard work, dedication to a just cause and a pure heart can give us miracles. Meegwetch to everyone for standing up for education.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

Wishing my beautiful niece Abigail Maya Petawabano a HAPPY 14th BIRTHDAY on March 25, 2012 XOXOX Auntie Rach...luv you so much!!

## EVENTS / RESOURCES

**FREE legal clinic for Aboriginal women:** On March 24 and 25, 2012, Québec Native Women (QNW) Inc. will be offering a brand new service in Quebec, in the form of a FREE legal clinic for Aboriginal women and their families. For these two days only Aboriginal women will have free access to the services of professional lawyers specialized in Aboriginal issues and Aboriginal law, in Montreal and Québec City, in both French and English with consultations available by telephone. **Aboriginal women may call toll-free 1-800-363-0322 between 10AM and 4PM on Saturday March 24 and Sunday March 25. You may remain anonymous.** For more info, please contact Aurélie Arnaud, Communications Officer at Quebec Native Women Tel.: (450) 632 0088 ext. 227 Cell: 514 239 0088 Email: [communication@faq-qnw.org](mailto:communication@faq-qnw.org) <http://www.faq-qnw.org>

**Art Workshops for Youth:** If you are between the ages of 15 and 29 you are invited to develop your creativity in weekly stone carving workshops being conducted at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located at 2001 boul. St. Laurent corner Ontario street (downstairs in the building of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal). Workshops are every Thursday from 3pm to 6pm. For further information call 514-499-1854.

**Need a tutor?** The Homework Help Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to Aboriginal youth. The program will match the needs of the Aboriginal youth to McGill students that have knowledge in a particular school subject. To sign up your child send an e-mail to [mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com) and let them know what grade your child is in and what subjects they need help with. The tutoring sessions will be held at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street, between 4pm and 5:30pm on every Monday afternoon beginning in March 2012.

**The Best Story Ever Told** is part of the after school series for youth that the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre has teamed up on with McGill University's Aboriginal Sustainability Project. This is a chance for Aboriginal youth to express their stories through a series of different art and media projects in a creative and fun atmosphere. The free workshops will be held every Wednesday between 4pm and 5:30pm in March through June of 2012 at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street. For more information send an email to [youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org](mailto:youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org) or call 514-499-1854 ext. 2229

**Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest & Sheldon Currie Fiction Contest.** \$2,400 in prizes to be won! Fiction entries must be

postmarked by May 31, 2012 and poetry must be postmarked by June 30, 2012. All submissions must be mailed to: The Antigonish Review Contest, P.O. Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2G 2W5. For complete guidelines, email [TAR@stfx.ca](mailto:TAR@stfx.ca), call 902-867-3962 or visit our website at [www.antigonishreview.com](http://www.antigonishreview.com).

**The Council on Palliative Care presents Two FREE Workshops:**

*"Challenges of Caregiving - caring for the whole person - mind, body and spirit"* on Wednesday April 18th, 2012 from 6 - 8pm

*"More Challenges of Caregiving - caring for the whole person - mind, body and spirit"* on Wednesday April 25th, 2012 from 6 - 8pm

Location: Temple Emanu-el Beth Shalom at 4100 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, QC. For further information, please contact: [fmpa202@aol.com](mailto:fmpa202@aol.com) or call 514-499-0345

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**Parents' Helpline:** 1-800-361-5085  
([www.parenthelpline.ca](http://www.parenthelpline.ca))

**Missing Children's Network:** They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333  
([www.enfant-retourquebec.ca](http://www.enfant-retourquebec.ca))

**Drug Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626  
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**Gambling Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626  
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**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:**  
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**Health and Sexuality Resources Center:** 1-888-855-7432  
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**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:** 1-866-403-4688  
([www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info))

**Suicide Action Québec:**  
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([www.suicide-quebec.net/](http://www.suicide-quebec.net/))

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: [www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources](http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources)









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